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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2004

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**FORMER RAILROAD POLICE OFFICER AND FRESNO COMMUNITY SERVICE
OFFICER INDICTED ON THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY CHARGES**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in Fresno returned a one-count indictment charging LARRY J. HURLEY, of Fresno, California, with theft of government property for fraudulent receipt of approximately \$198,000 in disability annuity payments from the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB).

This case is the product of an investigation by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board's Office of Inspector General.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Marlon Cobar, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment charges that beginning in January, 1995, and continuing without interruption until July, 2003, HURLEY received disability annuity payments which he knew he was not entitled to. The indictment charges that those payments amounted to approximately \$198,410.17. HURLEY had been employed as a police officer by the Southern Pacific Transportation Railroad Company until RRB awarded him a disability annuity. While receiving monthly payments from the annuity, HURLEY also worked as a community service officer for the City of Fresno.

Said Martin J. Dickman, RRB's Inspector General, "prosecution of disability fraud provides a significant deterrent to future fraud and helps safeguard the trust funds established to provide benefits for eligible railroad workers."

RRB is an independent agency in the executive branch of the federal government. RRB's primary function is to administer comprehensive retirement-survivor and unemployment-sickness benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families. During fiscal year 2003, RRB paid retirement-survivor benefits of nearly \$8.9 billion to some 666,000 beneficiaries, and unemployment-sickness benefits of \$94 million to about 37,000 claimants.

HURLEY faces a maximum sentence of ten years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a three-year term of supervised release. He is scheduled to appear in federal court in Fresno on October 6, 2004 for arraignment.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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